

# Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your  
light shine*

Dear Parents/Carers

## November 2019 – Newsletter 2

I can't quite believe that the last six weeks have gone so quickly, yet, as we enter the second half term of the year, we find the darker nights and increasingly colder weather upon us. Although it has been brief, it has been a very busy time in school and much of this will be reported on in our December issues of our Shining Lights Newsletter. Please make sure you read a copy, it's always full of examples of how our pupils live out our Gospel Values in school and the wider Brownedge community.

As we start a new half term, I would like to update you on some key information since my first school newsletter.

### **Bugsy Malone School Production**

Rehearsals are well under way for the Brownedge production of the musical Bugsy Malone. School productions are big events and bring staff and pupils working together to pull off nights of great fun and entertainment, and this year huge amusement with splurge gun fights. Mrs Bland, Head of Expressive Arts, will write to you soon with details of how to get your tickets but please note the date and time: November 27th, 28th and 29th starting at 7.30pm.

### **Mobile Phones**

As the darker nights do draw in, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate again our mobile phone rules in school. Our school rule states that mobile phones, if brought into school, MUST be handed into the Form Tutor in morning registration to be locked in the mobile phone safe. Pupils caught with phones (whether they are on or off) will receive sanctions. We fully appreciate that parents need the reassurance that their child has access to a mobile phone when travelling to and from school, especially in the winter months. However, our issue is how phones are sometimes used by pupils in school e.g. distraction to learning, cyber bullying and inappropriate use of texting and social networking apps during lesson time, break and lunch times. In order to ensure that pupils can follow this rule we have provided a secure cabinet for their phones to be stored during the day and changed the school day to ensure pupils can pick up their phones before making their journey home. If your child brings a phone into school, they MUST use this facility.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

This half term we will continue with our push on attendance and punctuality. We have high expectations and make no apology for this as we know the large impact attendance has on improving pupil progress. Whilst we would like every student to achieve 100% attendance, we aim for all our students to be at 97% or over. Once pupils drop below this figure, we need to act quickly to ensure that this is improved. To put it into context, 97% attendance means no more than 5 days absence in one year, 95% attendance means no more than 10 days. Mrs Pontifex, Acting Assistant Headteacher is leading on this key school priority and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact her. I know she has already written to you to share terms dates for 2019-20 and 2020-21 and these can, as always, be found on our school website.

### **Charity Work**

Pupils have been busy this half term in their charity work, showing their commitment to love, service and justice in the local and global community. Numerous charities have been close to our hearts; Macmillan Cancer Support, Christmas Shoebox Appeal and CAFOD, with monies raised to date already

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reaching in excess of £1200. We will continue this work for St Catherine's Hospice and the Foxton Homeless Shelter in Preston in the lead up to Christmas celebrations.

## Parents' Forum

As discussed in my first newsletter this year, I highlighted the importance of us working together in partnership to ensure our school serves the needs of our pupils. To that end, Mr Wilson has organised two Parent Forums in the next half term. The dates of these are Tuesday 12 November for years 7 and 8 and Tuesday 19 November for years 9, 10 and 11, both commencing at 4pm. Please feel free to join these evenings and contribute by sharing ideas to help shape the future of our school.

## Understanding Assessment

In the penultimate week of the last half term I wrote to parents explaining our new assessment and reporting procedures adopted this academic year. In this letter I identified how we assess your child here at Brownedge and how and when we would report your child's progress. A copy of this Parents Guide to assessment can be found on our website. If you have any questions regarding assessment, please contact Mr Banks ([banksj@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:banksj@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk)) and he will answer any questions.

## Uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring our high standards of uniform are maintained. It is essential that we continue our work on this and as the colder weather begins, we must insist that hooded tops are not used as part of the school uniform. More than a few students have chosen to wear a hooded top under their blazers like a jumper. This is not allowed during school hours. School jumpers can be purchased as an optional part of the school uniform otherwise a suitable coat (not hooded top) is required.

## Key Dates over the next half term

Year 9 GCSE Information Evening	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	7pm
Year 7 Assessment Information Evening	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	7pm
INSET 3	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	
Annual Careers Fair --- all years	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	from 1pm – 5.30pm
School Production	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	7.30pm
	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	7.30pm
	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	7.30pm
GCSE Certificates Evening	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	7pm
Year 11 Mock Exams start	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	
Review 1 to parents – all years	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	
Year 7 Parents' Evening	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	4.00pm – 6.30pm
Carol Service	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	7pm
Rewards afternoon	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	

Wishing you a good half term, rich in autumnal colours.

Yours sincerely

*N Oddie*

Mrs Nicola Oddie  
Head Teacher